

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th March 1893.

### CONTENTS :

	Page.		Page.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>			
The Viceroy in the late Manipur affair	... 243	<b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>	
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>			
<b>(a)—Police—</b>			
Thefts at Barada, near Ghatal, in the Midnapore district	... <i>ib.</i>	The zamindars and raiyats of Mymensingh	... 248
The constables of the Baduria thana, in the 24-Parganas district	... <i>ib.</i>	Settlement operations in Chittagong	... <i>ib.</i>
Complaints against the police of Karimganj in the Sylhet district	... <i>ib.</i>	<b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>	
Unjust punishment of a chaukidar by the Magistrate of Backergunge	... 244	Complaints connected with railway travelling	... 249
Dacoity and highway robbery in the district of Dacca	... <i>ib.</i>	Trains on the Southern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway	... <i>ib.</i>
Prevalence of dacoities in the country	... 245	A railway complaint	... <i>ib.</i>
<b>(b) — Working of the Courts—</b>			
A scheme for the separation of the judicial and the executive functions	... <i>ib.</i>	<b>(h) — General —</b>	
Convictions by Deputy Magistrates	... 246	Grievances of postal employes in the mufassal	... <i>ib.</i>
The Jury Commission	... <i>ib.</i>	The proposed Ganja Commission	... <i>ib.</i>
The abolition of a Munsifi chauki in the Bankura district	... 247	The Magistrate and Judge of Burdwan	... 250
Attendance of <i>purda-nashin</i> women in law courts	... <i>ib.</i>	Mr Beames	... <i>ib.</i>
<b>(c) — Jails—</b>			
Long-term and short-term prisoners	... <i>ib.</i>	The wants of Diamond Harbour	... <i>ib.</i>
<b>(d) — Education—</b>			
The <i>tol</i> scholarships	... <i>ib.</i>	Mr. Phillips' transfer to Monghyr	... <i>ib.</i>
A graduates' address to Lord Lansdowne	... <i>ib.</i>	A postal complaint	... <i>ib.</i>
<b>(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>			
Application of road-cess money by the Dacca District Board	... 248	Sir Charles Elliott's tours	... <i>ib.</i>
		Postage on newspapers	... 251
		The Lieutenant-Governor's tours	... <i>ib.</i>
		Rule relating to securities to be furnished by public servants	... <i>ib.</i>
		Promotion for meritorious native officers	... <i>ib.</i>
		Delivery of letters, &c., in the mufassal	... <i>ib.</i>
<b>III.—LEGISLATIVE.</b>			
		The Lieutenant-Governor and the Fire-brigade Bill	... <i>ib.</i>
		The Inland Emigration Act Amendment Bill	... <i>ib.</i>
		The Habitual Offenders Bill	... 252
		Babu Surendra Nath Banerji as a member of the Bengal Council	... <i>ib.</i>
		The Fire-brigade Bill	... <i>ib.</i>
		Dr. Sircar and the Fire-brigade Bill	... 253
		Newspaper conductors, and the defamation section of the Penal Code	... <i>ib.</i>
		The Inland Emigration Act Amendment Bill	... 254
		The rules under the new Indian Councils Act	... <i>ib.</i>
		The reconstitution of the Legislative Councils	... <i>ib.</i>



Page.

Page.

## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

Nil.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Impending distress in the district of Burdwan	...	254
The prospect of the crops in the Bankura district	...	255
Water scarcity in a village in the Nadia district	...	ib.
Scarcity in the Ranaghat subdivision of the Nadia district	...	ib.
Distress and scarcity of water in the country	...	ib.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The <i>Banganivasi's</i> humourist on the Fire-bridge Bill, and the appointment of the Jury Commission	...	...	...	253
A cooly case	...	...	...	ib.
Agitation and agitator	...	...	...	257
Lord Roberts' Memorial Fund	...	...	...	ib.
The <i>Banganivasi's</i> humourist	...	...	...	ib.
The condition of the Muhammadans	...	...	...	ib.
Prostitutes in Gauhati in Assam	...	...	...	258

## URIYA PAPERS.

Nil.

## ASSAM PAPERS.

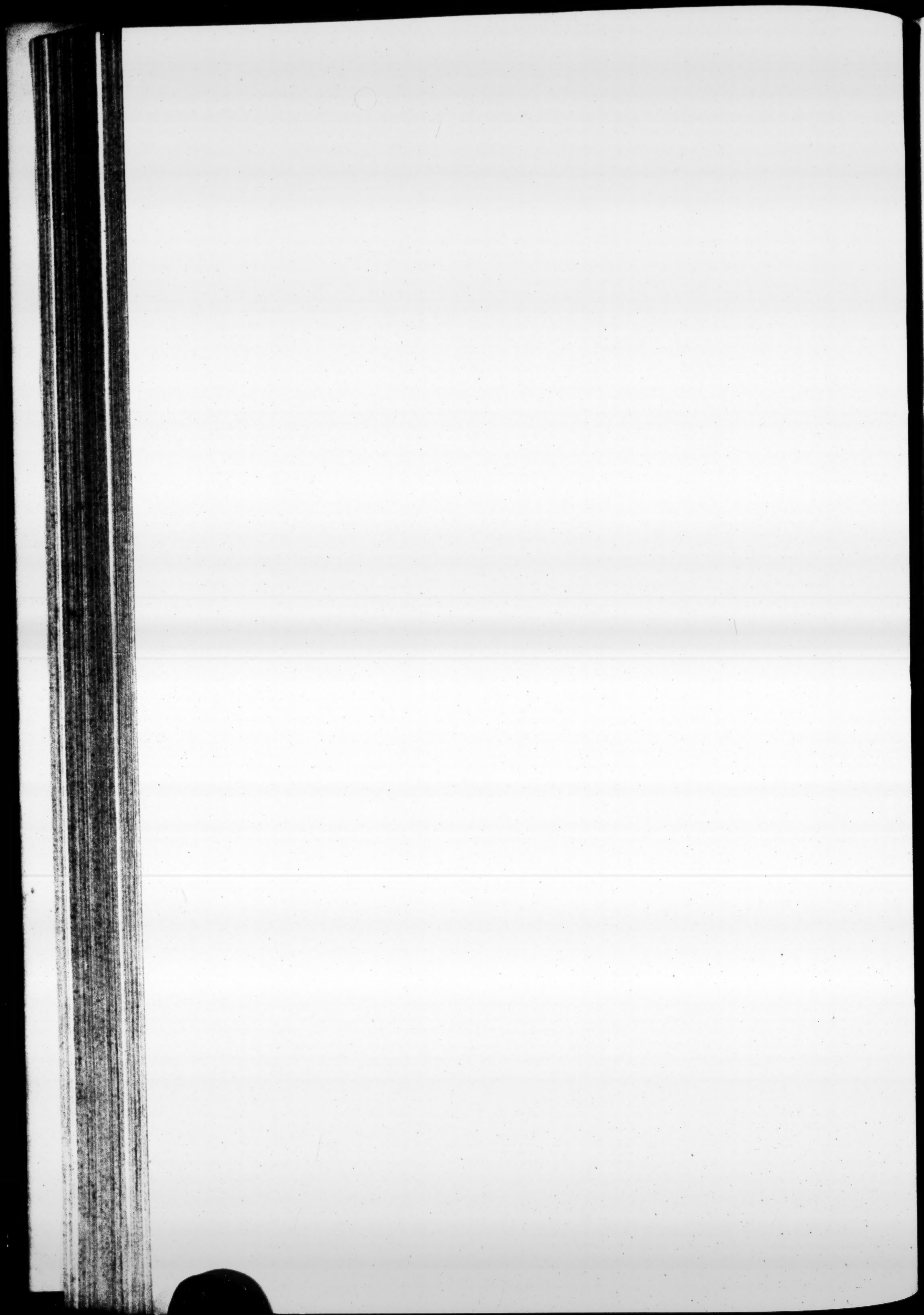
Nil.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	360	16th March 1893.
2	"Grámvási" ...	Ramkrishnopur, Howrah	1,000	
3	"Kaliyuga" ...	Calcutta	...	
4	"Kasipur Nivási" ...	Kasipur, Barisál	300	
5	"Navamihir" ...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
6	"Sadar-o-Mufassal" ...	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	650	12th ditto.
7	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	755	
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
8	"Hitakari" ...	Tangail Mymensingh	800	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Bangavási" ...	Calcutta	20,000	18th ditto.
10	"Banganivási" ...	Ditto	8,000	17th ditto.
11	"Burdwán Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	320	14th ditto.
12	"Cháruvartá" ...	Sherpur, Mymensingh	300	13th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca	5,000	19th ditto.
14	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,050	17th ditto.
15	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	
16	"Hitavádi" ...	Calcutta	3,000	16th ditto.
17	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	...	
18	"Prakriti" ...	Calcutta	...	18th ditto.
19	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore	611	17th ditto.
20	"Rangpur Dikprakásh" ...	Kakinia, Rangpur	170	
21	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	800-1,000	15th ditto.
22	"Samáj-o-Sáhitia" ...	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	19th ditto.
23	"Samaya" ...	Calcutta	3,000	17th ditto.
24	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	4,000	18th ditto.
25	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	...	
26	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	(300-400)	18th ditto.
27	"Som Prakásh" ...	Calcutta	800	20th ditto.
28	"Srimanta Sadagar" ...	Ditto	...	
29	"Sudhákar" ...	Ditto	3,600	17th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Calcutta	500	16th, 17th, 20th and 21st March 1893
31	"Bengal Exchange Gazette" ...	Ditto	...	20th March 1893.
32	"Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto	1,500	19th to 23rd March 1893.
33	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto	1,435	16th to 18th and 20th to 23rd March 1893.
34	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300	17th, 18th and 20th to 23rd March 1893.
35	"Suiabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	...	16th to 18th and 20th to 23rd March 1893.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly</i>				
36	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500-600	20th March 1893.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Monthly</i>				
37	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samákhár Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	400	16th ditto.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Aryávarta" ...	Dinapore ...	750	15th ditto.
39	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	500	
40	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	16th ditto.
41	"Champaran Chandrika" ...	Bettiah ...	350	
42	"Desí Vyápári" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	
43	"Hindi Bangavási" ...	Ditto ...	5,000	16th ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	750	13th ditto.
45	"Anis" ...	Patna ...	.....	
46	"Calcutta Punch" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	
47	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto ...	300	20th ditto.
48	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	410	16th ditto.
49	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	.....	
50	"Reis-ul-Akhbar-i-Murshidabad" ...	Murshidabad ...	150	
51	"Setare Hind" ...	Arrah ...	.....	
52	"Shokh" ...	Monghyr ...	100	
<b>URIYA.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
53	"Asha" ...	Cuttack ...	80	
54	"Echo" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
55	"Pradíp" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
56	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
57	"Taraka and Subhavártá" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
58	"Utkalprabhá" ...	Baripada ...	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
59	"Dipaka" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	
60	"Samvad Váhika" ...	Balasore ...	225	
61	"Uriya and Navasamvád" ...	Ditto ...	420	
62	"Utkal Dípiká" ...	Cuttack ...	400	
<b>PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.</b>				
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
63	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	480	
64	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	250	







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Banganivási*, of the 17th March, says that everybody is aware how the Viceroy in the late Manipur affair, in seeking to maintain his own prestige in the Manipur affair, Lord Lansdowne was obliged to resort to injustice and oppression, and show a complete disregard of public opinion. Indeed, the action of Lord Lansdowne's Government in connection with that affair was marked by such gross injustice as even a most barbarous people like the Goths or the Vandals would have shrunk from committing. The late unfortunate ruler of Manipur was, indeed, most unjustly deposed and deprived of all his wealth.

BANGANIVASI,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

The *Indian Daily News* says that it was only after extreme pressure had been put upon him, that Lord Lansdowne could be prevailed upon to consent to the execution of Tikendrajit and the Tongal General. This statement has really astounded everybody. Did not the *Morning Post* newspaper of Allahabad give out at the time that Lord Lansdowne had informed the Secretary of State by telegraph that he would resign if his orders for the execution of the Manipur prisoners were not confirmed? The writer is not aware that this statement in the *Morning Post* was ever authoritatively contradicted. Who again will believe that the Viceroy can be compelled to act against his own will or conscience? Has, then, the office of Viceroy come to be something worse than even a clerkship? Some time ago the *Pioneer*—that semi-official paper, said that the Viceroy saw everything through the eyes of his Ministers and Secretaries. Has, then, the Viceroy, who is entrusted with the charge of such a vast empire, no independent judgment of his own, but must be guided by others in all matters?

The *Indian Daily News* also says that the Government of India has proposed to remit the remainder of the sentences which were passed upon several Manipur prisoners. The late Maharaja Surachandra was never proved guilty of any offence, while those who were held guilty by Government have suffered sufficiently for their faults. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Government of India will see their way to the release of the unfortunate prisoners.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi*, of the 16th March, says that, since the removal of the subdivisional head-quarters from Ghatal, theft has become rife at Barada and neighbouring villages in the Midnapore district. The other day a theft of a serious nature was committed at Kusapata, which still remains untraced.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 16th, 1893.

3. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 17th March, says that the constables of the Baduria thana, in the 24-Parganas district, are in the habit of taking by force, either without any payment, or on payment of inadequate prices, vegetables and fish from people who come to sell them at the hat which is held twice a week in that place. On the 10th March last, two constables took by force a fish worth 4 or 5 annas from a fisherman named Ramnath, and on the man's opposing them, did not hesitate to give him a few blows. A *durwan* of the local zamindar, being on the spot at the time, remonstrated with the constables, whereupon he, too, was given a sound thrashing. The next day some 16 or 16 constables assailed the men in the zamindar's cutcherry with long sticks and brick bats, and wounded several of them. The matter has been represented to the Deputy Magistrate of Basirhat.

SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

4. A correspondent of the *Banganivási*, of the 17th March, communicates the following from Sylhet :—

BANGANIVASI,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

(1) On the 11th November last, at about 3-30 P.M., some constables and peons of Patharkandi, in the Karimganj subdivision of the Sylhet district, were observed dragging four respectable men to the thana on the charge of theft of grass. On arrival at the thana, the constables were ordered by the jamadar in charge to keep the men confined in a room. It ought to be noted that all this time the accused persons were being severely

Complaints against the police of Karimganj in the Sylhet district.



beaten by the constables. Later in the day some gentlemen of the village came to have the accused released on bail, but bail was not granted till about noon the next day. Since then nothing further has been heard of the case. Why were the men thus let off if they were really guilty? If not, why were they thus unnecessarily harassed?

(2) Towards the close of December last, a piece of cloth was missed from the Forest office in Karimganj, and it was said that the man who had stolen it had been caught with the article in his possession. A few days after this, a constable of the local thana offered the owner of the cloth a rupee as compensation for the loss of his cloth. This the owner refused to take, and reported the matter to the Assistant Babu of his office, who went over to the thana, and got a promise from the jamadar that he would make a thorough investigation into the matter. Nothing, however, has come of the promised investigation, though two months have elapsed since the theft was committed.

(3) A few days ago, some thieves broke into the house of one Raychandra, of Patharkandi, and took away property of considerable value. The matter was represented to the thana authorities, but the jamadar refused to entertain the complaint.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 18th, 1893.

5. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th March, says that there is perfect agreement and sympathy between the police and the Magistracy of this country; they are, as it were, animated by one soul. The police are placed under the control of the Magistrates, and carry out their orders. And it is no wonder, therefore, that the Magistrates should do their best to exculpate police officers when they do any wrong. The following is a case in point:—It is a fashion among low class people in the Backergunge district to wear their hair long, and the fashion widely prevails among the chaukidars in that district. The daroga of the Galachipa thana lately issued an order to his chaukidars, wearing such long hair, according to the prevailing fashion, to get it clipped. A chaukidar, named Rahimuddi, not having obeyed this order, the daroga told him that he should either cut his hair short, or pay him a *nuzzur* of Rs. 5. Lately, this chaukidar complained before the Deputy Magistrate of Patuakhali that he had been beaten by the daroga for his refusal either to cut his hair short, or to pay the required *nuzzur*. The Magistrate of Backergunge had the case transferred to his own file, and, after holding a summary trial, dismissed it, and ordered the chaukidar to pay to the daroga Rs. 50, as compensation for having instituted a false case against him. The Magistrate also punished several other chaukidars for disobedience of orders and for giving false evidence. Now, it may be asked—what was it that constituted the disobedience on the part of the chaukidars? What authority had the daroga to order the chaukidars to clip their hair short? Is there any provision to that effect in the new Chaukidari Act? Besides, was it not wrong on the Magistrate's part to place implicit reliance on the evidence of the daroga, and to disbelieve that of the chaukidars? The transfer of the case from the file of the Deputy Magistrate, and its summary disposal are also facts which the public cannot easily account for. The Lieutenant-Governor ought to call for an explanation from the Magistrate in connection with this matter. The Daroga-Babu in his evidence said that the zamindar, Mahim Babu, had instigated Rahimuddi to institute this false case against him. The zamindar, too, should at once bring an action for defamation against the daroga.

DACCA PRAKASHI,  
Mar. 19th, 1893.

6. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 19th March, is glad that Mr. Jenkins, Magistrate of Dacca, has passed an order, prohibiting all boats with public women on board from approaching the bathing-ghat at Nangalband, on the day of the Ashtami bathing-festival, until all respectable female bathers have left the ghat. In former years these boats used to cause great inconvenience to respectable female bathers. On the occasion of the Nangalband bathing-festival and the Dhamrai car-festival, budmashes take advantage of the crowd to kidnap young women, and to commit criminal assaults on them. The budmashes join the crowd, select their prey, and push her on until she loses sight of her guardians. They then forcibly take her away to some secret place and accomplish their object. The oppression by these budmashes can be checked by prohibiting their going through the crowd in



gangs consisting of more than 4 or 5 men, and by registering their names and addresses.

Highway robbery is rife on the Dacca-Mirpur road, and several dacoities were committed last year in villages near that road. The Magistrate is asked to look to the matter.

7. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st March, cannot account for the frequent dacoities which are now taking place in the country, otherwise than by attributing them to the prevailing distress arising from scarcity, to the inefficiency of the police, to the operation of the Arms Act, and lastly to the weak physique of the people, who are constantly suffering from malaria. The following recent cases of dacoity are then referred to:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 21st, 1893.

(1) In the house of a zamindar of Durgapur, near Jaynagore, in the 24-Parganas district.

(2) In the house of one Iswar Chandra Karmakar of Jhaporda in the Howrah district, within 3 or 4 miles of the Howrah town.

The Vice-Chairman of the Baranagore Municipality lately received a letter, calling upon him to place a certain sum of money in the temple at Dakshineswar, failing which, the writer of the letter would meet him (which meant that dacoity would be committed in his house).

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

A scheme for the separation of the judicial and the executive functions.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th March, gives the following case, which was decided by a certain Deputy Magistrate whom it will not name:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 14th, 1893.

There was a dispute between two men regarding the possession of a house. In the course of the dispute one of them abused the other's mother. Thereupon the latter caught him by the neck and shoved him. The man lodged a complaint in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate. The defendant admitted the assault, but pleaded provocation. The Deputy Magistrate, while admitting that the complainant had given sufficient cause for provocation, sentenced the defendant to seven days' rigorous imprisonment! In this case a fine would have met the requirements of justice, and yet a sentence of hard labour was passed. It is not only Deputy Magistrates, but nearly all classes of native hakims that seem unable to realize the gravity attaching to a sentence of imprisonment, and so they do not hesitate to send people to jail even for offences which may be adequately punished by the infliction of a fine. As regards the present case, it was with the greatest difficulty that the writer could believe that the Deputy Magistrate had actually sent a gentleman to jail for an offence like that stated above. Many Deputy Magistrates inflict unduly heavy punishments, in order to avoid the risk of being considered weak, and therefore unfit for their work, by their official superiors.

Those who allow their judicial conduct to be influenced by considerations like these are certainly to blame, but the system under which this state of things is possible is also open to very great objection. And, so long as that system will remain unchanged, so long will a foudari hakim, whoever he may be, find it necessary to dispense justice in the present heartless way. The remedy for this lies in the separation of the judicial from the executive function. This separation will, no doubt, lead to an increase of public expenditure, but that increase will not be very large. There are generally 3 or 4 Deputy Magistrates stationed at the head-quarters of districts; of these, some should be required to do only executive, and others only judicial, work. Those who will do judicial work should be placed under the Sessions Judge, and the District Magistrate should have nothing to do with them. Thus, if the proposed arrangement is accepted, it will not lead to any increase of expenditure so far as the head-quarters of districts are concerned. As regards the sub divisions, it will be necessary to send an additional Deputy Magistrate to each of them. And it will be the duty of the additional officer to try criminal cases, as well as such civil suits as he may be required to try for the purpose helping the Munsif. Thus, the adoption of this proposal will lead to some increase of expenditure in sub-divisions only. But, considering the good which will result from the proposed measure, Government ought not to grudge the additional expenditure.



SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1893.

9. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th March, refers to the letter written by the Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor to the editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, on the subject of convictions by Deputy Magistrates, and remarks as follows:—

In reply to the Private Secretary's letter, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* said that, though the Lieutenant-Governor had not passed any express orders on the subject, yet his acts, and the remarks which he had repeatedly made on the subject of the administration of criminal justice, had led the Subordinate Magistracy to think that their promotion depended on the percentage of their convictions. The Private Secretary has not dared to contradict this statement. The fact is, the new rules which the Lieutenant-Governor has made on the subject of the working of the criminal courts and the administration of criminal justice are doing much mischief. Cases cannot now be postponed beyond a certain number of times, and the witnesses to be examined for the defence must not exceed a certain number. All these circumstances, coupled with the fact that the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his satisfaction at the high percentage of convictions which was reached in the Orissa Division, irresistibly lead to the conclusion that, in His Honour's opinion, he is the most efficient officer and the best Judge, who can send the largest number of men to jail. There is now in every district an officer, whose duty it is to examine the records of the cases disposed of by the Subordinate Magistrates. If he thinks that in any case the accused person has been unjustly let off, the Magistrate orders a retrial in that case. If he thinks that in any case the accused have been inadequately punished, the Deputy Magistrate who tried the case is taken to task. Such was not the case in former years. Is this official spy—for he is no better than that—doing good or harm? The acquittal of the accused is now very rare, and the Deputy Magistrates try to avoid all risk of incurring the displeasure of their official superiors, by convicting people indiscriminately. The mischief has assumed very large proportions. Nobody says that the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to see people punished without evidence. But, then, His Honour ought to bear in mind that there is such a thing as over-zealousness on the part of official subordinates. As he is anxious to see justice properly administered, it is his duty to issue a circular, explaining his views on the subject. Sir Charles' reputation and the good of the country, alike, require the prompt abolition of the rules relating to the postponement of cases and the number of witnesses to be examined for the defence.

SAHACHAR.

10. The same paper has the following:—

The Jury Commission.

The Jury Commission is holding its sittings with closed doors. And, though it is certainly desirable that the public should be given access to its deliberations, still the matter ought not to be made the subject of unfavourable comments in the native press. The writers in that press should take care to say nothing which may increase Lord Lansdowne's *zid* in the matter. They should bear in mind that it is sometimes advantageous to give a man credit for virtues which he does not possess. Lord Kimberley must have given secret instructions to the Viceroy so to conduct himself that he and the Lieutenant-Governor may come out of the jury affair with honour and dignity; and let the native press do nothing which may cause them any difficulty or embarrassment in this connection.

It is probable that some communication has passed between the members of the Commission and the Secretary of State on the subject of the scope of the present enquiry. But if no such communication has passed between them, there is yet time for the Commission to make a reference on the point. It is probably at the request of Government that the public have been denied access to the deliberations of the Commission. The writer has been watching the action of Government for a long time, and his opinion is that, whenever any enquiry is conducted in the way the present enquiry is being conducted, the public can always expect it to yield good results. Sir Charles Elliott's action in this jury matter has opened the eyes of even the people of Bihar, and the residents of Shahabad have addressed a representation to the Commission, pointing out the necessity of extending jury trial to that district. Government itself is the cause of the excitement which now prevails in the country, and the question is, will it allow that excitement to go on increasing? The people have lost



their faith in the administration of criminal justice, and it has become indispensably necessary for Government to remove their anxiety on this score. The country has made considerable progress since English rule was established in it; and judicial vagaries, which formerly furnished matter for laughter, would not now be tolerated. The jury notification has been severely criticised by the English Press; and English statesmen and the Secretary of State were advised to curb the high-handedness of Indian Governors. All these things make it probable that Government will not act improperly in the matter. It is rumoured that Sir P. Hutchins is still opposed to the trial of murder cases by juries; but the writer hopes that neither the Viceroy nor the Lieutenant-Governor will pay any heed to the advice of that short-sighted man. The writer again says that, if Government admits its error in the matter, and extends jury trial, its prestige is sure to increase and not to suffer in any way.

11. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th March, says that the abolition of the Munsifi chauki at Gangajalghati, in the Bankura district, will be attended with serious inconvenience to the people of that village and many neighbouring places, the sadar station of Bankura being at a distance of 30 or 32 miles from that village.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Mar. 15th, 1893.

The abolition of a Munsifi chauki in the Bankura district.

12. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 23rd March, says that Justices Norris and Trevelyan have expressed the opinion that a respectable native female should not be compelled to attend a law court. But a granddaughter of the late Raja Radhakanta Dev had, nevertheless, to appear in the High Court for not being able, it is said, to pay the expenses of a Commission. The suggestion is therefore made that the Court should always direct the issue of a Commission in cases in which the examination of a respectable native lady is necessary, and either compel the other party to pay the expenses, or arrange in some other way for the payment thereof.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 23rd, 1893.

Attendance of purda-nashin women in law courts.

#### (c)—Jails.

13. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st March, says that it has been ruled that long-term prisoners will not be made to work hard for the first month of their imprisonment, but this rule will not apply to prisoners whose term of imprisonment does not extend beyond two months, that is, the latter must work hard from the beginning of their confinement in jail. The writer fails to see the reason of Government's want of sympathy for short-term prisoners. A zamindar shows greater favour to raiyats taking long leases than to those who take short leases. Does the same rule also apply to jails in this country?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 21st 1893.

Long-term and short-term prisoners.

#### (d)—Education.

14. The *Charuvarta*, of the 13th March, says that it is, on the whole, pleased at the action of Government in awarding the *tol* scholarships. It is true this consideration shown by Government to the pundit class will, to a certain extent, interfere with their independence, still the favour ought to be thankfully received by the people. The writer, however, cannot approve of the proposal to make all *tol*s in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa follow a uniform system of education. Such a system can never be equally beneficial to the three provinces, differing so widely, as they do, in local conditions. Government itself has admitted this in its Resolution on the report of the Education Commission.

CHARUVARTA,  
Mar. 13th, 1893.

15. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 20th March, says that Lord Lansdowne feels a real attachment for the Calcutta University and its graduates. It is in his time that the public have witnessed the appointment of a native Vice-Chancellor, and the privilege which has been given to the graduates of electing a number of Fellows from among themselves. The writer is, therefore, exceedingly glad to learn that the graduates of the Calcutta University propose to give an address to His Excellency, thanking him for the privileges he has conferred upon them. Lord Lansdowne's educational policy is, unquestionably, marked by liberality, and if His Excellency had followed an equally liberal

SULABH DAINIK,  
Mar. 20th, 1893

A graduates' address to Lord Lansdowne.



policy in the other branches of the administration, his name would have been written in letters of gold in the annals of India.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

Dacca Prakash,  
Mar. 19th, 1893.

Application of roadcess money  
by the Dacca District Board.

16. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 19th March, has the following:—

Government makes over the proceeds of the road cess to the District Boards. Last year these proceeds amounted to Rs. 39,80,626. From this sum Government deducted Rs. 4,70,391 as collection charges. This is hardly just or proper. The public works cess is collected at the same time and through the same agency as the road cess, and justice requires that the expenses for the collection of the two cesses should be charged rateably on their respective proceeds. But as the proceeds of the public works cess go to Government, it takes care to charge all the expenses for the collection of the two cesses on the proceeds of the road cess only. Government ought, at any rate, to explain to the public the reason which underlies its practice in this respect, for, as it is, it looks very suspicious.

Of the road cess money which falls to the share of the Dacca District Board, it spends Rs. 10,296 for the maintenance of ferries, and only Rs. 55,200 on the construction of roads, &c. About Rs 9,000 of the income derived from the road cess is spent on other purposes. Rupees 42,735 are spent on education in the district of Dacca. Of this sum Government only contributes Rs. 22,090, and the rest is paid by the District Board. Other District Boards spend one-sixth of their income on Education, but the District Board of Dacca spends for the same purpose Rs. 42,735 out of an income of Rs. 1,20,579, or, in other words, more than one-third of its income. As a consequence of this diversion of the proceeds of the road cess from their proper and legitimate objects, those objects are necessarily neglected. People are suffering from scarcity of food and water; the sick are going without medical treatment; trade and agriculture are in a depressed condition for want of irrigation canals; and all this because the money which ought to have been spent in removing these wants and inconveniences is being spent in giving a smattering of education to sons of agriculturists, and in converting native girls into fashionable ladies. The Magistrate-Chairman and those members of the District Board who are always ready to support him are chiefly to blame for this diversion of the road cess money, and it can only be put an end to by a special order of Government.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

17. The *Sudhakar*, of the 17th March, has heard that the raiyats in the Mymensingh district have at last given their zamindars to understand that they are determined not to pay any higher rent than can be lawfully demanded from them, and road cess at any higher rate than half-an-anna per rupee. The zamindars, on the other hand, are conspiring to teach their raiyats a severe lesson. Some zamindars, again, having purchased the friendship and support of the more powerful raiyats by various inducements, are trying to coerce the weaker raiyats into submission, and to continue their illegal exactions.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 18th, 1893.

18. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th March, says that settlement operations are everywhere attended with considerable oppression of the raiyats. Complaints of oppression, in connection with such operations, have been heard from Assam, and there can be little doubt that similar complaints will soon be heard from Bihar, where the cadastral survey has been commenced. Settlement work is also going on in Chittagong, and it is reported that the work of survey and preparation of the record of rights is proving a source of harassment to the raiyats. Land belonging to one raiyat is being entered as belonging to another, and the Settlement Officer is showing a complete disregard for the results of all previous surveys, as embodied in the existing records of rights.



(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

19. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th March, says that the absence of waiting-rooms for female passengers at many railway stations is a source of considerable inconvenience to native gentlemen travelling with family. Again, there is at present no special arrangement for checking the tickets of female passengers, or collecting tickets from them. Native ladies have now to jostle through a crowd of male passengers before getting into the female compartments, and the railway officials are not very particular in attending to their convenience. Almost all the important railways in India now belong to Government, and it is hoped that it will take steps to remove the inconveniences of the female passengers travelling by rail.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 14th, 1893.

Complaints connected with rail-  
way travelling.

20. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th March, has the following:—

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1893.

A circular has been recently issued by the District Traffic Superintendent of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, directing that the train on the southern section of the line, which is due at Calcutta at 10.3 A.M., should consist only of ten third class and two intermediate class carriages; and that the passengers who can get no accommodation in the train should avail themselves of the next. The officer who issued the circular does not apparently know that the next train reaches Calcutta at 3.30 P.M., and that it is therefore impossible for people who have to attend office to come by that train. Even after the issue of the circular the train in question does not contain more than five or six third class carriages. As a consequence, many third class passengers are obliged to travel in first and second class carriages. Even this does not prevent overcrowding in the carriages.

21. A correspondent of the *Banganivasi*, of the 17th March, complains of inadequate accommodation for third and intermediate class passengers in trains on the Bengal Central State Railway.

BANGANIVASI,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

(h)—*General.*

22. A correspondent of the *Banganivasi*, of the 10th March, draws attention to the poor pay which is given to the village post-peons, sub-postmasters, and the clerks in sub-post offices, and the hard work they are required to do. The post-peons are paid Rs. 8, or Rs. 9 and the sub-postmasters and clerks Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per month. And they find it extremely difficult to live with their families on this poor income in these days of high prices. The writer would suggest that the pay of sub-postmasters be raised from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 per month. The clerks, too, should be paid at a higher rate, as they have practically to do all the work of sub-postmasters.

BANGANIVASI,  
Mar. 10th, 1893.

23. Referring to the proposal to appoint a *Ganja* Commission, the *Sadar-o-Mufassal*, of the 12th March, says that the revenue derived by Government from the cultivation and sale of *ganja* being small, compared with that derived from its opium business, the authorities may not be unwilling to forego this item of revenue, in order to please the temperance party in England. It would be well, no doubt, to abolish the sale of spirituous liquors and intoxicant drugs from the country; but the cultivation and sale of *ganja* should not be abolished before an enquiry is made into the following points:—

SADAR-O-MUFASSAL,  
Mar. 12th, 1893.

The proposed *Ganja* Commission.

- (1) Whether the use of *ganja* is doing any harm to the people. If so, what class or classes are most affected by its use and to what extent?
- (2) Whether the evil is likely to be effectually remedied by the abolition of the sale of *ganja*.
- (3) Whether in case of such abolition *ganja* is likely to be surreptitiously grown in remote places in the mufassal; and whether *ganja*-smokers may not betake themselves to the smoking of *siddhi*.
- (4) Whether such abolition may not increase the use of opium and wine.



(5) Whether such abolition may not produce discontent among Hindu and Musalman *sadhus* and *sannyasis*, and thereby lead to disturbances in the country.

(6) Whether *ganja* possesses the virtue of destroying the malarial poison and the bad effects of foul water.

(7) Whether the use of *ganja* does not enable the cultivators and other hard-working people to bear fatigue and privation with ease.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 14th, 1893.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th March, is sorry to learn of the proposed transfer of the Magistrate and the Judge of Burdwan from that place. Both of them were very popular officers, and gave satisfaction to the people by the way in which they discharged their respective duties. The Magistrate's action in sanctioning an expenditure of Rs. 500 for the re-excavation of a tank in the village of Birudiha is spoken of with approbation.

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1893.

25. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th March, referring to Mr. Beames' retirement from the Civil Service, makes the following remarks:—

Mr. Beames is a linguist, and knows the Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, and Bengali languages. Few Europeans can so well converse like him in Bengali. He was impartial in the discharge of his official duties, and often reversed the decisions of Collectors in favour of the people. Not even his enemies can say that he was not a friend of the country. But, like the civilians of the old school, he was for getting all things done for the people, and nothing by them. It was for this reason that of late he came to be disliked by them. He was a man of great ability, and always wished to see justice done to all. Civilians of his type are fast passing away, and the men who can take their places are not forthcoming. Considering all things, Mr. Beames is entitled to praise. The people of this country are grateful to him for many things. By his retirement, the country has lost a true friend, and Government a very efficient servant.

SAHACHAR,

26. The same paper hopes that, in the course of his proposed visit to Diamond Harbour, the Lieutenant-Governor will have his attention directed to the condition of the railway carriages on the Diamond Harbour line, the state of the roads in the town, and its general sanitation. The first and the second class carriages on this line are very uncomfortable. The compartments are narrow and ill-ventilated, the seats are made of rattan and infested with bugs. These carriages ought to be replaced by better ones. Again, there ought to be a municipality at Diamond Harbour. The roads in the town are very bad, and as no carriages can be had at the railway station, people have to walk for a mile in the sun before they can get under shelter. A fort has been constructed here, and the sanitation of the place ought to be improved.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 16th, 1893.

27. The *Hitavadi*, of the 16th March, says—

Mr. Phillips has at last been transferred to Monghyr. His promotion comes simultaneously with his transfer. He was, indeed, rebuked by the Lieutenant-Governor for his conduct in the Suryya Kanta case, but the fact that he has been promoted, shows that His Honour was not in earnest when he administered the rebuke. That he would be promoted was known beforehand, and the only wonder is, that his promotion comes so late. When he was sent back to Mymensingh after the Suryya Kanta case, people knew that he would be promoted.

HITAVADI.

28. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Baluchar-Jiyaganj, in the district of Murshidabad, complains of irregularity in the distribution of letters by the local branch post office. The authorities ought to take notice of the matter.

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 18th, 1893.

29. The *Bangavasi*, of the 18th March, says that Sir Charles Elliott finds it too much to sit quiet any longer in Calcutta. He will therefore pay a visit to the Naogaon subdivision of the Rajshahi district in 2 days, and then, after a fortnight's rest in Calcutta, will again set out on a tour through Bihar and Northern Bengal, extending over 17 days only. And after that His Honour will probably start for Darjeeling. Sir Charles may or may not be an expert in any other work, but there can be



little doubt that His Honour is an expert in the art of running from place to place with all possible haste and hurry.

30. The same paper says that, though Government has reduced all telegraphic, and several, postal charges, it has yet done nothing to reduce the charge for transmission of newspapers by post. Every civilized Government offers facilities for the circulation of newspapers, with a view to the education of the people, and it is a wonder that the civilized English Government in India alone does not do so. The writer expresses a hope that all newspapers up to the weight of 5 tolas will be given the benefit of a 1-pice postage.

31. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th March, says that to-day the Lieutenant-Governor will be at Diamond Harbour, to-morrow at Naogaon in the Rajshahi district, and on the day after at Calcutta. Do not tours performed in such haste and hurry, and, as it were, by leaps and bounds, cause a mere waste of public money? Will it be proper for His Honour to travel such a great distance, simply for the purpose of inspecting one or two subdivisions? And will it, again, be proper for His Honour to inspect the courts and offices in Naogaon on a Sunday?

32. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th March, says that it would be a great hardship upon many old and trustworthy clerks in Government service, if the recent rule made by the Lieutenant-Governor, requiring its employés who have charge of cash to furnish securities, were enforced in all cases. Not a few old employés would in that case be compelled to resign their appointments. Even many heads of offices regard the rule with anything but satisfaction. Indeed, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot proceed too cautiously in the matter, otherwise a good deal of injustice will be done. It is hoped that, in working the rule, His Honour will see that old and trusted servants of Government are not forced to resign, owing to their inability to furnish the required securities.

33. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 20th March, complains that the claims of meritorious native officers in the Judicial and Executive Services are overlooked by Government, and instances the cases of Babu Brajendra Kumar Seal and Mr. Rameshchandra Dutt, the latter of whom may well be called a jewel of the Executive Service. Babu Brajendra Kumar Seal deserves a seat on the High Court Bench, and Mr. Rameshchandra Dutt promotion to a Divisional Commissionership. It is to be hoped that Sir Charles Elliott will do justice to these deserving officers.

34. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide*, of the 20th March, says that, though the village people have to pay, besides the ordinary postage charge, an additional postal tax in the shape of the zamindari dâk less, they are worse served than people of the towns in the matter of the punctual delivery of their letters. In fact, in the mufassal, it is not a rule, but an exception, to receive letters punctually by post. Besides delay in the receipt of their letters, &c., the mufassal people have often to pay something as gratification to the post-peons.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

35. The *Charuvarta*, of the 13th March, says that, but for the difficulty in which he found himself in connection with the jury affair, Sir Charles Elliott would not have hesitated to curtail the privileges of Local Self-Government enjoyed by the people by passing the Mufassal Municipal Bill. As if to gratify in a certain measure that latent desire of his heart, His Honour, during the discussion of the Fire-brigade Bill, gave his vote in favour of Mr. Woodroffe's amendment proposing the transfer of the power of granting licenses to warehouses from the general body of the Municipal Commissioners to their Chairman.

36. The *Hitavadi*, of the 16th March, thus criticises the Inland Emigration Act Amendment Bill:—  
1. The section relating to free labourers, which was introduced into the existing cooly law in

BANGAVASI,  
Mar. 18th, 1893.

SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 18th, 1893.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 19th, 1893.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 20th, 1893.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Mar. 20th, 1893.

CHARUVARTA,  
Mar. 13th, 1893.

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 16th, 1893.



consequence of the agitation in the native press, has done harm instead of good to the coolies for whose benefit it was intended. It has enabled the recruiters to kidnap human beings without a license of any kind. The section in question, does not require the detention of free labourers in licensed cooly-depôts, and thus it distinctly operates in favour of the recruiters. The law stands in need of amendment in this respect.

2. The coolies should be brought to the sadar stations of the districts in which they are recruited, and there kept in licensed cooly-depôts for at least ten days before they are sent to Assam.

3. The proprietors of cooly-depôts, or their agents, should be required to submit before Magistrates or Deputy Commissioners, as the case may be, statements giving the names, residences, statures, and other particulars relating to the recruited coolies. Those officers should cause these statements to be filed in some conspicuous places in their cutcherry for public inspection.

4. The contracts of the coolies should be executed before the Magistrate in the sadar station of the district in which they are recruited, and that officer should himself attest them with his signature. It is also necessary that the attesting Magistrate should be conversant with the language spoken by the coolies, and that the contracts should be executed ten days after the coolies had been kept in the licensed depôts. The Lieutenant-Governor realized the necessity of a provision of this kind; but unfortunately His Honour's proposal on the subject has not been embodied in the new Bill. Most of the Kols who are taken to Assam as coolies understand neither Bengali nor Hindustani, and thus contracts are not executed in their mother-tongue at Dhubri.

5. Before their contracts are registered the coolies should be made to undergo a medical examination, and the medical certificates should be attached to the contracts.

6. Those coolies who are either natives of Assam, or who habitually reside in that province, should not be required to execute contracts of this nature. Separate provisions should be made for them.

7. Special provisions should be made for the protection of the coolies from over work. For over work is the cause of untimely deaths among the coolies.

8. The rate of remuneration of the coolies should be increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6. The present rate of Rs. 5 may be allowed to stand in the case of female coolies.

9. The age-limit for the registration of the coolies should be increased from 16 to 18 years.

The Habitual Offenders Bill.

37. The same paper has the following:—

It seems that the abolition of jury trial has some secret connection with the proposed law for dealing with habitual offenders. The object of both of these measures is to increase the power of the executive and weaken that of the courts. If the jury order were cancelled, the authorities would still gain their object by the other measure. The jury notification excludes offences against property from the operation of jury trial, while the Habitual Offenders Bill proposes to declare, as habitual offenders, people guilty of these very offences. A connection between the two measures is, therefore, evident, and there ought to be as strenuous an opposition against the proposed law as there has been against the jury order. The oppression committed on Sohoulal by the Agra police shows clearly what the consequences of the passing of the Habitual Offenders Bill will be. This man was arrested by the police on the suspicion of being a purchaser of stolen goods. His house was searched, and his iron safes brought in court. At last the High Court of the North-Western Provinces intervered, his case was transferred from Agra, and he was ultimately acquitted.

38. The *Banganivasi*, of the 17th March, hopes and believes that Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, who has laboured so much in the cause of Local Self-Government in this country, will be nominated by the Calcutta Corporation as its representative in the Bengal Council under the new regulations.

39. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th March, says that, during the discussion on the Licensed Warehouses and Fire-brigade Bill in the Legislative Council,

HITAVADI,  
Mar. 16th, 1893.

BANGANIVASI,  
Mar. 17th 1893.

Babu Surendra Nath Banerji as  
a member of the Bengal Council.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 19th, 1893.

The Fire-brigade Bill.



Mr. Cotton fought for the rate-payers, but Mr. Risley did not. Not only in respect of this Bill, but in respect of other Bills also—as, for instance, in regard to the Chaukidari and Mufassal Municipal Bills—Mr. Risley posed as an antagonist of Mr. Cotton. The European Trades Association took up something like an attitude of opposition to the Chamber of Commerce in the discussion of the present Bill; Mr. Wallis, of the Trades Association, keeping an eye on the interests of the rate-payers, and Mr. Playfair, of the Chamber of Commerce, attending solely to the interests of the merchants. The writer is glad to notice that Mr. Lambert to a certain extent fought for the rate-payers. Maharaja Ravanewar Singh of Gidhaur is a new member, and he followed the golden rule of silence. The Lieutenant-Governor, President of the Council, tried to maintain a position of neutrality, but in the discussion of certain sections of the Bill His Honour took up the cause of the merchants as against that of the rate-payers. Whenever on any motion the parties were equally divided, the Lieutenant-Governor voted on the side of the merchants. But for the hard fighting done for them by Messrs. Lee, Cotton, Wallis, and Lambert, the whole cost of keeping up a fire-brigade would have fallen on the rate-payers. They are, therefore, thankful to those gentlemen. The Bill will soon be passed into law, and it is not likely that the protest of the Municipal Commissioners will be listened to.

Dr. Sircar and the Fire-brigade Bill.

40. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th March, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 20th, 1893.

In all Acts of the Indian Legislature very large powers are conferred on Government, to be exercised by it at its discretion. It was in exercise of powers thus conferred by the Legislature that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam have partially abolished jury trial within their respective provinces. But whenever such powers are given to Government, care is taken to exclude its British subjects from their operation. The above tendency of the Legislature to entrust Government with large powers is seen even in the case of the Fire-brigade Bill. A list is given in the Bill of the articles which are to be considered inflammable for purposes of the proposed law, and yet a sub-section has been added, empowering Government to add to the list from time to time. This is certainly objectionable. If it be found necessary hereafter to include any new article in the list, the insertion may be effected by an amendment of the law. The legislative machinery is always working, and any change in any law may be effected as soon as its necessity is felt. Again, why should the Legislature do its duty imperfectly in the first instance, and thereby make a reservation of powers in the hands of Government necessary? Can it not do its duty properly? Why does it not proceed cautiously and deliberately, leaving its measures to be criticised by the public at every stage? Matters are worse in Bengal in this respect than they are in Madras and Bombay, and the Bengal High Court has to find fault with the Bengal Council Acts at every step. This is due to the incompetency of the officer who is charged with the drafting of the Acts and Bills of that Council. To return to the Fire-brigade Bill. Dr. Sircar moved the withdrawal of the sub-section, conferring power on Government to add to the list of inflammable articles, but his motion was lost. It aimed at curtailing the power of the executive. A motion of the kind proposed by Dr. Sircar would have been readily accepted in England or America. But here, years must pass away before a thing of that kind can be expected to take place. Dr. Sircar knew this well and yet he made a move in the right direction. For this he surely deserves the thanks of the public.

41. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 20th March, considers the existing provisions of the Penal Code in regard to defamation a source of great hardship to the conductors of newspapers, inasmuch as they may be called upon to appear before a Magistrate in any place within British India, where any issue of their paper containing matter alleged to be defamatory may have been circulated. The conductors of a newspaper published in Calcutta may be arrested on a warrant issued by a Magistrate in Madras, and taken and detained there till the disposal of the case, thus subjecting them to great loss and hardship. This section of the Penal Code should be amended, and it should be laid down that defamation cases must be instituted in the court of a

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Mar. 20th, 1893.



Magistrate only in that place where the newspaper is originally published, and where it has its principal place of business.

It is also considered that the section in question is unnecessarily harsh upon proprietors, managers, and printers of newspapers, who have nothing to do with the writing thereof. It is unjust to punish these men for what is properly the offence of the editor only.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 21st, 1893.

42. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st March, says that there is nothing to be wondered at in the objection made by the tea planters to the reduction of the period of contract under the Inland Emigration Act Amendment Bill from five to three years. For nothing short of a lifelong contract would satisfy these men. But what surprises the writer is that Mr. Ward, who said some time ago that, "the cooly is practically a slave for the whole period of his contract," has supported the planters in this matter. It is hoped that Lord Lansdowne and the impartial members of his Council will not allow themselves to be led astray by the objection of the planters, but reduce the period to three years.

The Council should have adopted the proposal made by Dr. Ghose, to revive the system of local registration of the coolies.

The writer hopes that the Council will also give effect to Mr. Chintsal Pantulu's proposal, to raise the age of contract from 16 to 18 years.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Mar. 21st, 1893.

The rules under the new Indian Councils Act.

43. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 21st March, writes as follows:—

Though the reform of the Bengal Council has not been such as to fully satisfy public expectations, yet what has been achieved in this direction is a decided gain to the country. Under the new arrangements the Council will contain 5 or 6 native members out of a total of 20 who will constitute the body. This is not bad after all. And, then, it should be remembered that this is but the first step towards the constitution of the Councils on a reformed basis. The writer, also, sees no reason to quarrel with the provision of the new rules, which empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to choose 3 of the non-official members from certain communities. If these members are chosen from among the educated classes, as there is every reason to believe they will be, they will certainly know how to act with independence. It is probable that these members will be Europeans. In that case, the number of native members will be limited to 5 or 6 only.

The writer, however, has been astonished to find that neither the British Indian Association nor the Indian Association has been given the privilege of returning members. The claim to representation of these two bodies, which have done the Government and the country immense good, should not have been thus ignored, and it is hoped the Viceroy will reconsider the matter. Indeed, the Bengal Council will be far from well constituted, unless it has in it representatives of these two bodies. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot, indeed, do better than allow these bodies to nominate 2 of the 3 members whose nomination lies in his hands.

The reconstitution of the Supreme Legislative Council has been postponed, probably because the Simla season is at hand. But the rules made for that Council are not at all satisfactory. The 4 non-official members of that Council who will come from the Provincial Councils ought, in justice, to be non-officials.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 23rd, 1893.

44. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 23rd March, says that the change which is now made in the constitution of the Legislative Councils will be advantageous to both Government and the people. A discussion of the budget in the Council is likely to do much good. The right of asking questions, too, will produce good results. The exercise of this right will afford an opportunity to the authorities to explain their measures, and will, to some extent, serve as a check upon the officials.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Mar. 14th, 1893.

45. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th March, says—  
The outlook is becoming gloomier every day in the district of Burdwan. Coarse rice is selling at less than 12 seers a rupee, a seer being equiv-

Impending distress in the district of Burdwan.



alent to 80 tolas; and if the exportation of rice is not stopped, it will be difficult in a few days to procure 10 seers of rice for a rupee. Poor people will in that case suffer most, and most of them will have to live on one meal a day. In times of scarcity two classes of people suffer most, viz. the labouring classes and the middle classes. The former live from hand to mouth, and suspension of work, even for a day, means starvation for them. It is for this class of men that Government has to open relief works in times of distress. As regards the other class, Government cannot get any information regarding the distress that may prevail among them. Their position in society, and general respectability, prevent them from publicly disclosing their poverty, and they never think of resorting to public kitchens for their meals. Rich men ought to come forward for the relief of this class of men. A gentleman occupying a high official position in the district of Burdwan, has accordingly proposed the formation of a District Charitable Society there. If the pleaders and the mukhtars practising in the local courts collect from their clients subscriptions at the rate of 1, 2, or 4 pice, a sum sufficient for the working of the scheme may be raised within a few months.

46. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th March, says that the untimely rainfall of the present year has seriously injured the mango, the sugar-cane, and the mohua crops. The injury to the mohua crop, which supplies the people of these parts with food for four months in the year, has caused great anxiety and alarm.

During his visit to Bankura the Lieutenant-Governor promised to see that the subhankar's dárá was repaired, but nothing has come of His Honour's promise yet. The dárá if repaired may prove of great benefit to the people. And it is a wonder that the authorities are still so apathetic in the matter.

47. A correspondent of the *Samay*, of the 17th March, complains of water-scarcity at Jayarampur, in the district of Nadia. The people of the village used to take their supply of water from the river Bhairab, which flows to its south. But the river has now considerably silted up in consequence of the cultivation by local zaminders of indigo, paddy, and other crops in its bed, and this supply of water has failed. Village people now depend for their supply on a tank, the water of which becomes unfit for drinking purposes during hot weather. Cholera breaks out there every year precisely at that time, and people die in numbers. The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor is drawn to the matter.

48. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 20th March, says that untimely rainfall has destroyed the *rabi* crop in the Ranaghat, Santipur, Chakdaha, and Haringhatta thanas of the Ranaghat subdivision in the Nadia district. There is already distress among the people in consequence of the failure of crops during the last two years and this additional calamity will soon aggravate it.

49. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 22nd March, has the following:—

Distress and scarcity of water in the country. Considering that rice and paddy did not sell cheap even in the month of Pous, the prospect before the country must certainly be regarded as a gloomy one. Old rice and new rice of the finer sort cannot now be had in Calcutta for less than Rs. 5 per maund. But while rice can be had in Calcutta, though at a high price, it is not procurable in many villages at any price whatever. Untimely rainfall has also destroyed the pulses. Kitchen vegetables and spices also have become very dear. Free exportation of food-grains is proving the ruin of the country, and the canals and railways are facilitating this exportation. The suggestion is often made, that the waste lands in India should be brought under cultivation. But, leaving out of consideration the forests, the conservation of which is necessary for the supply of fuel and rainfall, there is not much waste land in India. The cultivation of jute in lands which formerly used to grow rice is doing great harm to the country. If the exportation of food-grains goes on unchecked, India will gradually become a scene of desolation.

There is great scarcity of water in the mufassal. But while Government is anxious to give a supply of water to towns, which may well do without

BANKURA DARPAN.  
Mar. 15th, 1893.

SAMAY,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Mar. 20th, 1893.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Mar. 22nd, 1893



it, it is doing nothing to remove the terrible scarcity of water which prevails in the villages.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANGANIVASI,  
Mar. 10th, 1893.

The *Banganivási's* humourist on the Fire-brigade Bill and the appointment of the Jury Commission.

50. The *Banganivási*, of the 10th March, publishes the following:—

What Bábáji (the *Banganivási's* humourist) saw on waking from his long sleep:—

#### THE FIRST SCENE.

Illut Lat (Elliott), Catan Das (Catan), Alla An (Aln), Urdharef (Wdrfe) and several other honourable gentlemen, in their attempt to drag a fire-engine, are pulling each other, but have not yet succeeded in tearing each other to pieces. Catan Das is pulling Alla An by the beard, and Urdharef (who had both his beard and mustachios shaved) by the hair of his head. Illut is pulling Catan by the ear. What the result of all this pulling was will be gradually published.

The imposition of a tax on salt did great good to the country. But oil remained to be taxed. This fire-engine affair, however, was about to make oil a taxable article, but that has been prevented by certain people. Everybody has to apply oil, only it should be applied to the proper place, and to the proper person. A tax on oil therefore would cause inconvenience to everybody. Cocoa-nut oil has been spared from a fear of giving offence to native females, and castor oil, too, has been spared, for it serves many useful purposes. This has pleased Bábáji. If the fire-engine-wallas feel aggrieved at this, they may refuse the service of their engine when oil catches fire.

What Babaji heard:

A conversation between one Lat and another.

*Lomsudan Lat, Lord (Lansdowne) (crying):*—It is true I have done an act at the instance of Illut; but what is my fault? I will resign if my prestige is not upheld. A total withdrawal of my order will be a great insult to me. You will have to keep my prestige intact.

*Kimbadanti' Lat (Lord Kimberley.)* Nice *ábdár* (an importunate and unreasonable demand prompted by affection) this! What shall I do? Unless I rescind your order I shall be in danger of losing my own appointment.

*Lomsudan.*—You must grant this *ábdár* of mine. Just look and see how that fellow Naren, of the Sen family, is treating my order with contempt, and how the Bengalis are making themselves merry over the matter. I have no desire to live after this. Unless you uphold our prestige, Illut and myself will beat our brains out (*cries*).

*Kimbadanti.*—What trouble! What am I to do then?

*Lomsudan.*—Keep matters undecided for a few days, and appoint a Jury Commission.

*Kimbadanti.*—I do not see how that will uphold your prestige.

*Lomsudan.*—Whether my prestige be upheld or not, I will at least, have some consolation, and—(owing to great noise, Bábáji failed to catch the remainder of the conversation). Then Lomsudan sang a song to the following effect:—

Illut's coming to Bengal has caused difficulty and confusion. What a fatal notice it was that he issued—and how foolishly did I act in inadvertently assenting to such a measure at his instance. Clamour has filled the land, and my conscience is tormenting me. How long can I dissimulate in this fashion? My heart will no know no ease until the Commission comes to a close. Let there be a compromise, and let the clamour cease, so that I may be spared the necessity of giving an explanation.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
Mar. 15th, 1893.

51. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th March, has heard the following story from a woman named Mandá:—

A cooly case.

On the 11th March last a woman, named Garabini, a friend of Manda's, came to her, and asked her if she would accompany her and her paramour in their journey to the Ganges, in which they intended to bathe. Manda having no money at the time, Garabini lent her some rupees, and they went together. After proceeding some distance Manda perceived that she was being enticed away into a cooly depôt. On this she escaped, but



was pursued by the men of the depôt for some distance. She, however, managed to arrive home safe. An aunt of Garabini's and another woman were some time ago sentenced to a month's imprisonment for enticing away, for a similar purpose, the wife of a barber. That woman lost her caste, and has now taken to prostitution.

52. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th March, has the following:—

SAHACHAR,  
Mar. 15th, 1893.

Agitation and agitator.

The necessity of political agitations has been admitted in all civilized countries. According to Mr. Gladstone, no national rights can be acquired without agitation, while Lord Salisbury publicly advises the people of Ulster to agitate against the Home Rule movement. Agitation is, in fact, the only means by which a lifeless people can be galvanized into life and activity. If, then, agitation is so necessary an element in modern politics, why are people who agitate for a common purpose, sometimes blamed for so doing? Why are the Congressists in India blamed, and called professional agitators? The reason of this is not far to seek. It only proves the inconsistency of human nature. All are ready to admit the utility of political agitations in the abstract; but as soon as such agitations clash against their own interests they forget their theory, and condemn all agitations as mischievous. Thus, when the Bulgarians tried to throw off the Turkish yoke they were loudly praised by the English for their action; but when Ireland demands Self-Government, the people of Ulster are publicly advised to oppose her in every possible way. If you question my power, you are a professional agitator. If the people of Ulster had supported the Home Rule movement, they would have been guilty of unlawful agitation; but as they are opposing that movement, they are, according to the Tories, simply trying to defend their own interests. Thus the words 'agitation' and 'agitator' come to have different meanings, when looked at from different points of view.

53. The *Banganivási*, of the 17th March, says that already Rs. 23,000

BANGANIVASI,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

Lord Roberts' Memorial Fund.

have been subscribed towards Lord Roberts' Memorial Fund, and there is no knowing how much more the people of India will still offer at the feet of the English. Lord Roberts' only title to the gratitude of the people of India seems to be his horrible exploits in Cabul, and his want of respect for the native population. The writer never knew before that gratitude could be won by such service. Neither Lord Ripon, who did so much for this country, nor the late Mr. Bradlaugh, who breathed his last breath thinking of India's welfare, had any statue erected to his honour by the people of India. But a statue, it seems, must be erected to the retiring Commander-in-Chief. This is not an expression of gratitude, but fulsome flattery, on the part of those who have money to spare. The poor have no money, and cannot therefore express their gratitude by means of statues and paintings. But their gratitude is most sincere, and they can only express it by shedding tears. And such expression of gratitude it is not in the power of all Lord Roberts' Fund to purchase.

The *Banganivási's* humourist.

54. The same paper publishes a cartoon, to which the following letter-press is attached:—

BANGANIVASI.

Bábáji (the *Banganivási's* humourist):—

Though the Bengal Council is an inferior Council, its members are not men of inferior rank. But Bábáji cannot explain how an incident like the one reported in the last issue of the *Banganivási* (see paragraph 50) occurred in that Council. The incident has filled Bábáji with horror, and he sees, as in a dream, Catan pulling Urdharef by the hair, and All a An by the beard, and he sees Illut pulling Catan by the ear. The pain makes Catan jump up, he gapes and shows all his teeth. Strange are the ways of legislation, when such things can happen in its course.

55. The *Sudhakar*, of the 17th March, deplores the present backward con-

SUDHAKAR,  
Mar. 17th, 1893.

The condition of the Muham-  
madans.

dition of the Muhammadan community, owing to absence of education and enterprise among its members. The Muhammadans now a days do not find employment in public offices, which are filled with educated and half-educated Hindus. The latter have at length come to understand the benefit of trade and speculation, but the Muhammadans have neither the inclination to improve their condition by these means, nor have they, in the majority of instances, the



requisite capital to carry on commercial pursuits. Another point to which the writer would draw attention is that, living among Hindus, the Muhammadans of these provinces have acquired many superstitious notions, which stand in the way of their following trades and professions which are likely to prove lucrative.

PRAKRITI,  
Mar. 18th, 1893.

56. The *Prakriti*, of the 18th March, says that prostitutes have managed to make themselves a public nuisance at Panbazar in the town of Gauhati in Assam, and hopes that the Deputy Commissioner will order their removal from the town, and fix a place outside its limits for their residence.

NÁRÁYAN CHANDRA BHATTÁCHÁRYYA,  
*Officiating Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 25th March 1893.*